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Police on the hunt for bitcoin users in Bangladesh



Bitcoin tokens are seen placed on a monitor that displays binary digits in this illustration picture. (Reuters)

Officials of the central bank have warned all other commercial banks in the country to be wary of bitcoin users.

The trading of the popular virtual cryptocurrency is **illegal** in Bangladesh, but the trading and usage of this currency is still rampant – a fact that has riled Bangladesh Bank.

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warned all other commercial banks in the country to be wary of bitcoin users. The Foreign Exchange Police Department and some other departments are

being considered to be monitors of the currency, and a report will soon be sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding cryptocurrencies, said a high-ranking official of Bangladesh Bank.

Investigators from Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) have already begun to look for bitcoin traders, and even the BTRC are involved. Officials from the aforementioned three organizations have already held four meetings on the matter.

Bitcoin is traded through an open source cryptographic protocol, negating the need of any financial organization or bank. As a result, there is no governing body for the currency anywhere in the world.

According to the BFIU, many freelancers and people who regularly travel abroad have already purchased or acquired bitcoin, and even some local celebrities – including cricketers – have inadvertently gotten involved with the phenomenon after being ushered into it by its agents.

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Meanwhile, the government has warned people not to make any transactions with bitcoin. According to Bangladesh Bank, bitcoin is neither accepted nor considered legal tender anywhere in the world, and it is risky to use this currency. The trading of this currency might cause infringements of laws regarding money laundering or funding terrorism.

An official of BFIU said: “Banks and other financial organizations of the country have been ordered to maintain a strict vigil on cryptocurrency trading. A circular will soon be sent out detailing the matter.”

“There is no way to purchase these currencies legally through banking channels. Cybercrime investigators are working on the matter,” he continued.

Speaking on the matter, Assistant Deputy Commissioner of the Cyber Crime Unit Nazmul Islam said: “We have already located a few bitcoin users, and are on the hunt for more, along with a few web pages which are being checked for authenticity. Investigating cryptocurrency trading is a complex matter.”

Even though it hasn’t been accepted as a currency yet, the popularity of bitcoin continues to rise meteorically. As a result, the central banks of many countries are beginning to implement policies to control it.

During a seminar at the recently concluded “Digital World 2017” conference, advisor to the Bangladesh Bank S K Sur Chowdhury said, “A combined committee will be formed with officials from the central bank as well as government and non-government financial organizations. It will figure out how to create and implement Bangladesh’s digital currency.”

*This article was first published by **Dhaka Tribune**.*

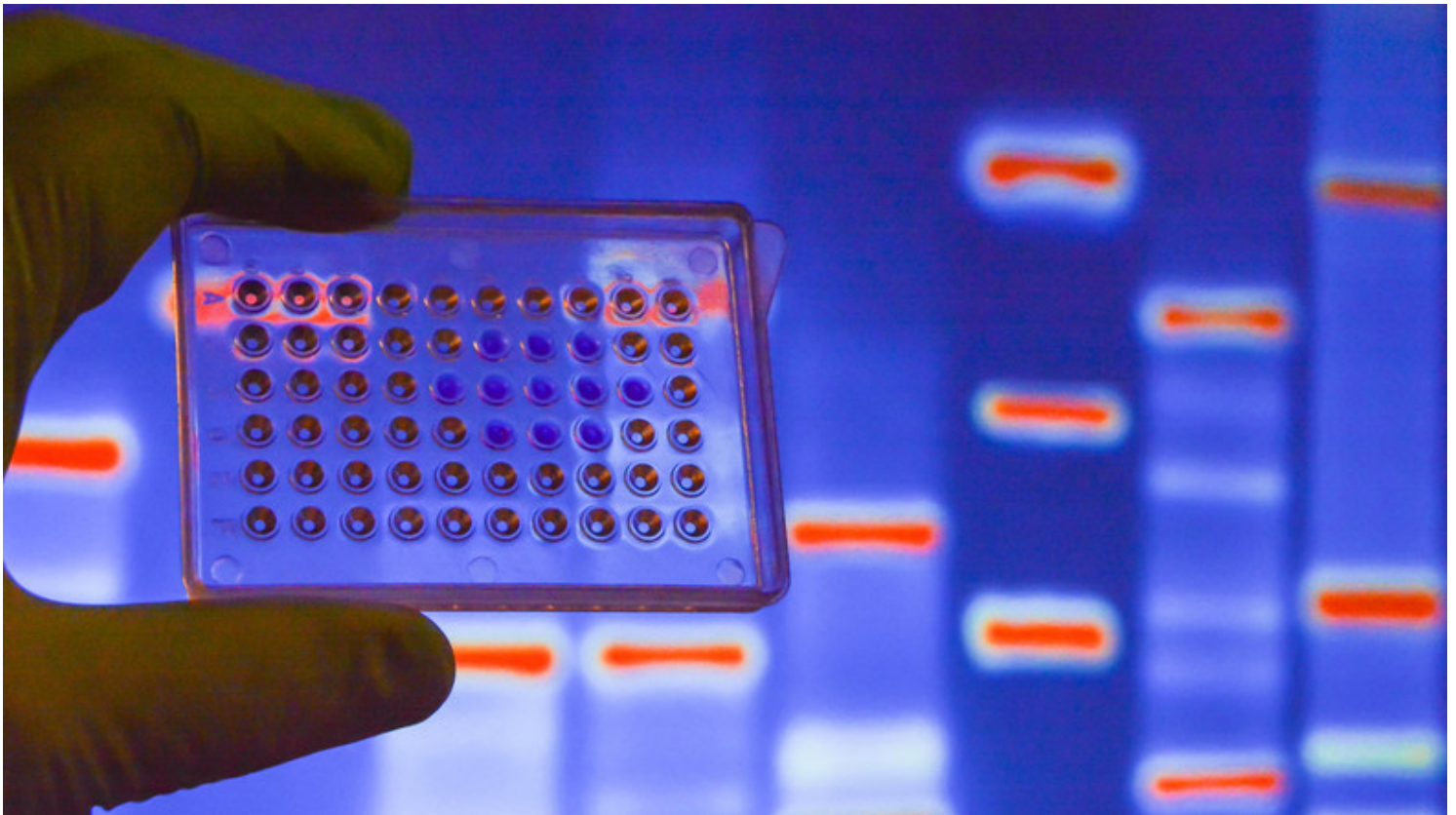
Last Update: Tuesday, 20 February 2018 KSA 10:06 - GMT 07:06

How are we doing?



Dubai launches human genome project to prevent genetic, chronic diseases

How are we doing?



The project will be able to detect chromosomes, genes and proteins which will allow for the prevention of chronic diseases. (Shutterstock)

The Dubai Health Authority (DHA) launched the human genome project on Saturday which perfects gene scanning to help decrease chronic and genetic diseases, **Khaleej Times** reported.

The project comes as part of the Dubai 10X initiative, launched at the World Government Summit by Dubai's Crown Prince Hamdan bin Rashid al-Maktoum, which aims to put Dubai 10 years ahead of the rest of the world in several sectors including health and tourism.

"The authority is looking to target all residents of the emirate of Dubai, focusing on UAE nationals in the first phase of implementation," Humaid Mohammed al-Qatami, director general of the DHA told the newspaper.

"The project's timetable extends over 24 months, during which we will be collecting samples, analyzing DNA sequences, and recording the results in the data bank," he added.

The project will be able to detect chromosomes, genes and proteins which will allow for the prevention of chronic diseases like cancer, as well as genetic diseases.

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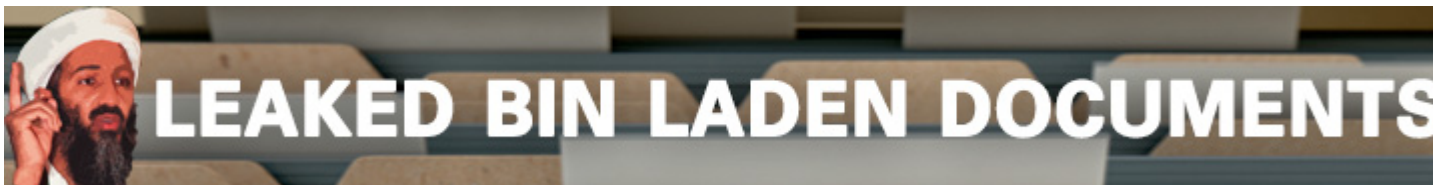
DHA created a committee of genetic experts to ensure the project is completed efficiently and on time. They have also mandated a few of their affiliate organizations, like the department of pathology and genetics and the Dubai Cord Blood and Research Center.



"Forming genome laboratories in Dubai signals a new phase, where our forecasts for the future of the health and medical services sector begin to materialize. The labs will establish the first national genetic database for future research, lending support to decision-makers as they set plans and strategies for the future of the healthcare sector. This, in turn, ensures Dubai's global competitiveness and strengthens the knowledge economy," the newspaper reported al-Qatami as saying.

26 innovative projects presented by 24 government bodies were accepted under the 10X Initiative out of a total of 160 projects submitted. These were analyzed by a panel of experts and Sheikh Hamdan.

Last Update: Sunday, 25 February 2018 KSA 14:51 - GMT 11:51



Forget RoboCop: Dubai Police unveils the 'Smart Dog'

How are we doing?



Weighing around 35 Kg, the dog-like machine features a 360-degree Wi-Fi camera for all-round surveillance. (Photo credit: Khaleej Times)

Dubai Police have introduced a 'Smart Dog' which aims to keep UAE homes secure.

The current model of the robotic K9 was unveiled to public eyes during the Innovation month exhibition in Dubai.

Weighing around 35 Kg, the dog-like machine features a 360-degree Wi-Fi camera for all-round surveillance. Through this, the dog can transmit clips directly to the owner or the police.

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Dubai Police unveil 'Smart Dog' for h...

Posted by Khaleej Times

87,809 Views

Living up to its pup name, the dog, which alerts its owner when necessary, also has speech recognition allowing it to understand various instructions. The 'Smart Dog' can also sit, stand, walk for some distance and perform a hand shake.

Speaking to **Khaleej Times**, Chief Executive Officer of Innovation Kingdom, the company building the device with Dubai Police, Abdulsalam al-Hammadi sees the robot in UAE homes and across all embassies to maintain security throughout the country.

Hammadi said that another project is in the works where they are developing a 'smart dog' that can run, identify **illegal** substances and catch criminals.

Last Update: Saturday, 24 February 2018 KSA 11:45 - GMT 08:45





UAE's RTA unveils prototype of Hyperloop design



Hyperloop can travel between Dubai and Abu Dhabi in 12 minutes. (Photo courtesy: RTA)

Mattar Al Tayer, Director-General and Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), has announced that the RTA would unveil the initial design of the Hyperloop.

The design will be exhibited for the first time in the world, in collaboration with Virgin Hyperloop One, as part of its

How are we doing? n Month. RTA will also exhibit mous Pods, High-Frequency Express Buses, and the Urban Mobility Innovation Index (UMii).

"It reflects RTA's strategy to transform 25 percent of total journeys in Dubai into driverless transport using different means by 2030. The strategy is focused on integrating public transit means with people's happiness through the provision of smooth, express and innovative mobility means that support the efforts of ranking the UAE among the top 20 countries in the UMii by 2021," said Al Tayer.



Dubai Media Office @DXBMediaOffice 21 Feb

Replying to @DXBMediaOffice

Mattar Al Tayer Director-General of @RTA_Dubai: The Hyperloop is part of RTA's initiatives for Dubai Future Accelerators. RTA and @HyperloopOne Company have made considerable progress in the technical, engineering and economic feasibility study of the Project pic.twitter.com/8V5arr03lj



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Mattar Al Tayer: When introduced in future, the Hyperloop technology will impact the town planning and the availability of parking spaces. It will revolutionize people mobility between various destinations in the city, logistical hubs like airports & ports, and shipping patterns

pic.twitter.com/B4pPMVxmFr

11:05 PM - Feb 21, 2018



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The Hyperloop technology uses an electromagnetic propulsion system to accelerate the movement of goods and services through a vacuum tube. The system is designed to assist the levitation of the capsule slightly off the track

within the tube and move it at speed up to 1200 km/hour.

Accordingly, the Hyperloop can travel between Dubai and Abu Dhabi in 12 minutes, and lift about 10,000 passengers per hour in both directions.



“When introduced in future, the Hyperloop technology will impact the town planning and the availability of parking spaces. It will revolutionize people mobility between various destinations in the city, logistical hubs like airports & ports, and shipping patterns,” commented Al Tayer.

“During the UAE Innovation Month, the RTA will exhibit the Self-Driving Transport Pods Project which will undergo trial runs as announced by the RTA during the World Government Summit.

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The Hyperloop technology uses an electromagnetic propulsion system to accelerate the movement of goods and services through a vacuum tube. (Photo courtesy: RTA)

The pods

These pods, the first of its kind worldwide, have been designed to travel over short and medium distances on dedicated lanes. They can be coupled in 15 to 20 seconds or detached, depending on the destination of riders, in 5 seconds, the RTA statement said.

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They are fitted with cameras and electromechanical technologies to carry out the coupling and detaching processes, and this feature can be activated in-motion. Each pod is designed to travel short and medium distances and has a capacity to accommodate ten riders (six seated, four standing),” added Al Tayer.

The RTA will also exhibit the UMii with the aim of maximising potential benefits, enhancing collaboration with cities, benchmarking mobility innovation, providing a database of cities with advanced innovative mobility, and the ranking & benchmarking various mobility innovation pillars measured by the Umii.

Last Update: Friday, 23 February 2018 KSA 15:13 - GMT 12:13

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